

Serial No.: 09/718,150
Examiner: Andrew W. Wahba

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 13-28 remain in this application. Claims 3, 11, 12, and 29-37 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4, 9, 13 and 14 have been amended.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 19-25 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 3-8, 12-18, 27 and 28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to substantially include the limitations of dependent claim 3, and have amended independent claim 9 to substantially include the limitations of dependent claims 11 and 12. Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are allowable.

Regarding claims 2, 4-8, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are allowable.

Regarding claims 10 and 13-18, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 9 and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are allowable.

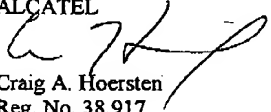
It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of the claims, and full allowance of same.

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Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCATEL


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